



DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Federal Disaster Loans for
Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

U. S. Small Business Administration
P. O. Box 13795, Sacramento, CA 95853

Disaster Area 4 Office
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Press Release

Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA – Small businesses in 40 California and two Nevada counties are eligible to apply for low interest disaster loans to offset economic losses because of reduced revenue to farmers and ranchers caused by excessive rain, hail, freezing temperatures and wheat stripe rust in eight California counties announced Alfred E. Judd, Disaster Area Director of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Small businesses in these eight California primary counties and 34 adjacent counties in California and Nevada may apply for economic losses that are attributable to these related disasters and incident dates:

Butte (*Colusa, Glenn, Plumas, Sutter, Tehama, and Yuba*) – spring rains and wheat stripe rust from March 1 through May 14, 2003;

El Dorado (*Alpine, Amador and Sacramento Counties & Douglas County, Nevada*) – excessive rain, hail and freezing temperatures from April 1 through May 15, 2003;

Merced (*Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, San Benito, Santa Clara, Stanislaus and Tuolumne*) – spring rains, cool temperatures and wheat stripe rust from April 1 through May 14, 2003;

Nevada (*Placer, Sierra and Yuba Counties & Washoe County, Nevada*) – spring rains, cool temperatures and wheat stripe rust from March 1 through May 15, 2003;

Solano (*Contra Costa, Napa, Sacramento, Sonoma and Yolo*) – spring rains and wheat stripe rust from April 1 through May 31, 2003;

Stanislaus (*Alameda, Calaveras and San Joaquin*) – rains and wheat stripe rust from April 1 through May 14, 2003;

Sutter (*Butte and Colusa*) – hail from April 4 through May 9, 2003;

Yolo (*Alameda, Calaveras and San Joaquin*) – rain and wheat stripe rust from April 1 through May 15, 2003.

Small businesses may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$1.5 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses, which could have been met had the disasters not occurred. "Eligibility for these working capital loans is based on the financial impact of the disasters only, and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 3.189%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship," Judd said.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Ann M. Veneman declared these disasters at the request of Dallas Jones, Office of Emergency Services Director, on behalf of former California Governor Gray Davis.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are ineligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration.

Information and application forms may be obtained by writing to **SBA at P.O. Box 13795, Sacramento, CA 95853-4795** or by calling **(800) 488-5323**. Hearing impaired individuals may call (916) 566-7388. The deadline to apply is **June 30, 2004**.

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